



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Hatakeyama

Serial No. 09/824,034

Group Art Unit: 3625

Filed: 4-3-01

Examiner: unknown

For: **ONLINE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 through 1.99 and pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicant respectfully brings the following documents, which are cited in a Japanese Office Action and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to filing of this statement.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of the official action by a foreign examiner in which the reference was cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. Patent application is that the references was cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the

reference, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the same subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith. It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the examiner and be formally made of record in the application. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credits any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham", written over a horizontal line.

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